

May 13, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**PROJECTED COST OF OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING ISSUES RELATED TO RALPH M. BROWN ACT**

On April 2, 2002, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, our office was asked to report back on the budget allocation/costs for use of outside counsel to review proposals regarding open government and to advise the Board on issues related to open government.

The County retained the services of the firm of Brown, Winfield & Canzoneri. Under the County's existing legal services agreement with the firm, attorneys are billed at the hourly rate not to exceed \$295. To date, we have received two invoices totaling \$9,594 for services provided during March 2002 - \$6,497 for Brown Act advice, and \$3,097 for services related to litigation. We are projecting total costs to be \$100,000 (\$75,000 for legal services regarding the lawsuit filed by the Los Angeles Times, and \$25,000 for review of the Ralph M. Brown Act).

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may call Robert Muench at (213) 974-1126.

DEJ:DL  
RLM:lbm

cc: Executive Officer of the Board  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller

BrownAct